UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS GALVESTON DIVISION

DINA MOUSA,

Plaintiff,

CIVIL COMPLAINT

v.

CASE NO. 3:25-cv-69

UNITED DEBT SETTLEMENT, LLC,

Defendant.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES Plaintiff, DINA MOUSA ("Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys, Consumer Law Partners, LLC, complaining as to the conduct of UNITED DEBT SETTLEMENT, LLC ("Defendant"), as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Plaintiff brings this action for damages under the Credit Repair Organizations Act ("CROA") pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1679 et seq., as well as the Texas Credit Services Organizations Act ("TCSOA") pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code § 393 et seq., stemming from Defendant's unlawful conduct.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This action arises under and is brought pursuant to the CROA. Subject matter jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court by 15 U.S.C § 1679, as well as 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337, as the action arises under the laws of the United States. Supplemental jurisdiction exists for Plaintiff's state law claim pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

3. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 as Defendant conducts business in the Southern District of Texas and a substantial portion of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred within the Southern District of Texas.

PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff is a consumer over 18-years-of-age residing in Galveston County, Texas, which is located within the Southern District of Texas.
- 5. Defendant is a credit repair organization organized under the laws of the state of New York, with its principal place of business located at 240 West 37th Street, Suite 400, New York, New York 10018. Defendant's registered agent Business Filings Incorporated is located at 701 Brazos Street, Suite 720, Austin, Texas 78701. Defendant regularly conducts business with consumers across the United States, including those residing within the state of Texas.
- 6. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives and insurers at all times relevant to the instant action.

FACTS SUPPORTING CAUSES OF ACTION

- 7. Plaintiff has been dealing with derogatory information appearing on her credit report, so in early 2024, she reached out to Defendant for credit repair services.
- 8. Upon speaking with Defendant, Defendant promised Plaintiff that if she used its services, it would eliminate her debt issues, raise her credit score, and would also be able to get collection efforts to cease.
- 9. Defendant's representative further advised Plaintiff to stop making payments to her creditors, and instead, to pay Defendant to get any negative accounts deleted.

- 10. As a result of Defendant's representations, Plaintiff entered into an agreement with Defendant in January 2024.
- 11. Plaintiff fulfilled her duties under the agreement by remitting her scheduled monthly payments of approximately \$340.00, however, several months went by, and Plaintiff saw no improvement with her debt issues or credit score.
- 12. In fact, Plaintiff's credit score decreased significantly during the period of time in which she was using Defendant's services.
- 13. Moreover, throughout the entirety of the parties' agreement, Plaintiff also continued to receive systematic phone calls and dunning notices from creditors and debt collectors, despite Defendant's promise that the collections would cease.
- 14. Plaintiff contacted Defendant a number of times to inquire about the same, and was consistently assured that Defendant would be able to delete her negative accounts and improve her credit score.
- 15. Based on these assurances, Plaintiff continued to make monthly payments to Defendant.
- 16. Once again, however, Defendant failed to provide any credit relief for Plaintiff, so in July 2024, Plaintiff finally contacted Defendant and requested that it cancel the program.
- 17. Defendant rebuffed Plaintiff's request and attempted to persuade her into continuing its services.
- 18. Ultimately, Plaintiff believed that her monthly payments were going toward Defendant actively working to address her debts; however, Defendant's services provided no benefit to Plaintiff, as Defendant's services failed to result in any marked credit repair to Plaintiff.

- 19. Frustrated and distressed over Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff was forced to hire counsel and her damages therefore include reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in prosecuting this action.
- 20. Plaintiff has suffered additional concrete harm as a result of Defendant's actions, including but not limited to: loss of sleep, emotional distress, aggravation, mental anguish, pecuniary harm stemming from payments made for deficient credit repair services, deprivation of her substantive right to receive information regarding Defendant's services, as well as violations of her state and federally protected interests interests which were harmed or put at a material risk of harm stemming from Defendant's conduct.

COUNT I – VIOLATIONS OF THE CREDIT REPAIR ORGANIZATIONS ACT

- 21. Plaintiff restates and realleges paragraphs 1 through 20 as though fully set forth herein.
 - 22. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1679a(1) of the CROA.
- 23. Defendant is a "credit repair organization" as defined by §1679a(3) of the CROA, as it is a person who uses any instrumentality of interstate commerce or the mails to sell, provide, or perform any service, in return for the payment of money or other valuable consideration, for the express or implied purpose of improving a consumer's credit, credit history, or credit rating, or providing assistance to any consumer with regard to any activity or service for the purpose of improving a consumer's credit.

i. Violations of CROA §§ 1679b(a)(3)-(4)

24. The CROA, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1679b(a)(3) prohibits any person from "mak[ing] or us[ing] any untrue or misleading representation of the services of the credit repair organization." Additionally, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1679b(a)(4), any person is prohibited from

"engag[ing], directly or indirectly, in any act, practice, or course of business that constitutes or results in the commission of, or an attempt to commit, a fraud or deception on any person in connection with the offer or sale of the services of the credit repair organization."

- 25. Defendant violated the above-referenced provisions of the CROA through its misrepresentations and deception as to the nature of the credit repair services provided Plaintiff. Defendant represented to Plaintiff the efficacy of its services and that it would be able to eliminate her debt issues, raise her credit score, and would also be able to get collection efforts to cease. However, Defendant failed to deliver any results to Plaintiff.
- 26. Defendant further deceptively represented the nature of its services when it suggested that it would get Plaintiff's creditors to stop harassing her. Despite this representation Plaintiff has continued to get called by her creditors.
- 27. Additionally, Defendant violated the CROA through its generally deceptive representations that it would be able to submit effective disputes in connection with the information on Plaintiff's credit report. Inherent with Defendant's representations was the notion that there would be an obligation for an investigation to be triggered by Defendant's submission of a credit dispute on Plaintiff's behalf. However, pursuant to 12 C.F.R. § 1022.43(b)(2), the credit reporting agencies are under no obligation to respond to disputes submitted by credit repair organizations like Defendant.
- 28. Plaintiff relied on Defendant's misrepresentations to her detriment, as she was repeatedly charged monthly fees for services that were not rendered.

ii. Violations of CROA § 1679b(b)

29. The CROA, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1679b(b), provides that "[n]o credit repair organization may charge or receive any money or other valuable consideration for the performance

of any service which the credit repair organization has agreed to perform for any consumer before such service is fully performed."

- 30. Defendant violated § 1679b(b) through its charging and receiving of money for services agreed to perform before such services are fully performed. Defendant charged and received money in exchange for services without fully performing those services, in violation of the CROA.
- 31. As pled in paragraphs 18 through 20, *supra*, Plaintiff has been harmed and suffered damages as a result of Defendant's illegal actions.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, DINA MOUSA, respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter judgment in her favor as follows:

- a. Declaring that the practices complained of herein are unlawful and violate the aforementioned statutes and regulations;
- b. Awarding Plaintiff actual damages, in an amount to be determined at trial, as provided under 15 U.S.C. § 1679g(a)(1);
- c. Awarding Plaintiff punitive damages, in an amount to be determined at trial, as provided under 15 U.S.C. § 1679g(a)(2)(A);
- d. Awarding Plaintiff costs and reasonable attorney fees as provided under 15 U.S.C. § 1679g(a)(3);
- e. Awarding any other relief as this Honorable Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT II - VIOLATIONS OF THE TEXAS CREDIT SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS ACT

- 32. Plaintiff restates and realleges paragraphs 1 through 31 as though fully set forth herein.
 - 33. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by Tex. Fin. Code § 393.001(1).

34. Defendant is a "credit services organization" as defined by Tex. Fin. Code § 393.001(3), as it represented to Plaintiff that it would improve his credit history and rating, and also provided Plaintiff with advice and assistance regarding the same.

i. Violations of TCSOA § 393.302

- 35. The TCSOA, pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code § 393.302 states that a credit services organization shall not "charge or receive from a consumer valuable consideration before completely performing all the services the organization has agreed to perform for the consumer."
- 36. Defendant violated the above provisions of the TCSOA in much the same way it violated § 1679b(b) of the CROA.

ii. Violations of TCSOA § 393.304

- 37. The TCSOA, pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code § 393.304 states that a credit services organization may not "make or use a false or misleading representation in the offer or sale of the services of the organization."
- 38. Defendant violated § 393.304 of the TCSOA in much the same way it violated §§ 1679b(a)(3)-(4) and 1679b(b) of the CROA. As set forth, *supra*, Defendant made a number of false promises and misrepresentations that it never adhered to. Defendant assured Plaintiff that if she used Defendant's services, it would eliminate her debt issues, raise her credit score, and would also be able to get collection efforts to cease. Yet, in spite of Plaintiff continuously remitting payments to Defendant, Defendant failed to carry out the terms of its own agreement.

iii. Violations of TCSOA § 393.305

39. The TCSOA, pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code § 393.305 states that a credit services organization "may not directly or indirectly engage in a fraudulent or deceptive act, practice, or course of business relating to the offer or sale of the services of the organization."

- 40. Defendant violated § 393.304 of the TCSOA in much the same way it violated §§ 1679b(a)(3)-(4) and 1679b(b) of the CROA.
- 41. As pled in paragraphs 18 through 20, *supra*, Plaintiff has been harmed and suffered damages as a result of Defendant's illegal actions.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, DINA MOUSA, respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter judgment in her favor as follows:

- a. Declare that the practices complained of herein are unlawful and violate the aforementioned statute;
- b. Award Plaintiff actual damages, pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code § 393.503(a)(1);
- c. Award Plaintiff reasonable attorney fees, pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code § 393.503(a)(2);
- d. Award Plaintiff costs, pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code § 393.503(a)(3);
- e. Award any other relief as this Honorable Court deems just and proper.

DATED this 10th day of March, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Taxiarchis Hatzidimitriadis
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